

Dear Senator Moore,

It has been brought to my attention recently that there are to be bills passed that may directly affect the choice available to women to birth their children at home with the security of a qualified midwife. It appears that midwives are not currently entitled access to professional indemnity insurance for their profession, and the current bill will in turn deem their private practice illegal.

Is it possible to find a way to pass these bills but also ensure a change that will allow Midwives to continue their private practice. They will then in turn be able to continue supporting women that choose to birth their children in the comfort of their own home. I realise that home birth is not for everyone, but I also know that I am not alone when I say there are many women who have made the decision to do so and have not regretted it. I gave birth to my first child at home in May last year; it was the most amazing experience in my life thus far. I had access to all the food I could eat, a choice of bedrooms to lie in, a huge pool of water in my living room to ease the pain, relaxing music playing in the distance, my husband close at hand and most importantly my midwife; trained in all aspects of the current emergency (as I viewed it) ... childbirth.

I want to experience a similar experience when I give birth to my second child. I have shared my birth story with other women and they have in turn shared theirs. I find that while some feel that they would not have done it that way, others are quite supportive and curious. I think it's fantastic that women have the current right to choose a safe home birth option. Take away the midwife though and it's not an ideal situation! I am asking therefore to consider finding a way to change the bill before it is passed to somehow allow midwives to continue practicing to assist women. I am only one small voice, but one of many and my role is to bring this issue to your attention that is extremely important to me and many other parents and those wanting to be parents in the future. I believe that you have the ability to do more, this is why I am sharing my concerns with you. Thank you for your time and I hope there is a solution to this problem.

Yours sincerely

Karrie Banks